

The Punta Gorda Herald

VOL. XXI—NO. 21

PUNTA GORDA, FLA., THURSDAY, MAY 22 1913

\$1.50 A YEAR

Big Turtles Caught

There are turtles and turtles and then some. We are told that there was a time when the song of the turtle was heard in the land. And most everyone has heard of that impossible thing—an auto turning turtle. I remember once in Penn's Valley, Pa., of catching a snapping turtle out on dry land, and upon turning him over on his back I found carved on his breast bone "J. H. 1800." The initials stood for John Harter my great great grandfather, and the date gave us all some idea of that turtle's age. He was then probably 200 years old, but he could snap and crush a stick with the vivacity of a turtle in his teens.

But the kind of turtles I want to tell about are loggerheads, two of which were brought into Lewis' fish house the other day. Their capture by three of our prominent young men was an adventure which no one of them will soon forget. These young men were B. H. Mobley, James Cooper and Leck Lewis. They had planned only to catch trout and Spanish mackerel in the bay down near where the old Hindu derelict lies, and they had motored to the spot early in the morning, having plenty of fishing tackle and shiners for bait.

They had pulled in about all the fish they cared for when their attention was directed to large objects in the water nearby. Lewis ran his boat alongside the objects, which proved to be two large turtles amusing themselves on the top of the water. The water is from fifteen to twenty feet deep at this place, but that did not deter Lewis from diving overboard and grabbing the biggest one of the turtles by his left rear flipper. To his surprise the big fellow did not drag him down but on the contrary readily rose to the surface. Lewis then took hold of the boat with one hand and held onto the turtle with the other. Meantime Mobley and Cooper had a rope ready and quickly they fastened it around the neck and front flippers of the monster and hauled him close to the edge of the boat. The other turtle swam idly about looking for its companion, and as soon as the first one was tied up Lewis tackled it. It was roped also, and the problem was how to get them into the boat. Lewis got aboard and wrung out his clothes. Then took a short rest. There was work ahead and strength was needed. Maybe there are some old seadogs who know what it is to pull a 250 pound turtle out of the water into a boat, but very few other kind of people ever had such an experience. The boat is long and narrow and was built for racing, and that made matters worse.

Having rested, the young men began the task of drawing in their catch. Cooper managed to get one of the rear flippers of the largest turtle over the edge of the boat, and the weight tipped the boat to the waters line. He held on however and in a moment his companions had gotten hold of the other, and by combined effort managed to draw the monster in backwards. It was necessary to keep away from his head, as by

this time the turtle was aware of what was happening to him, and he bit and snapped viciously. He grabbed the iron gas pipe and tore it away from its place, and proceeded to destroy everything within reach. It was found necessary to kill him, and this was done by cutting his throat. His body was so placed as to be opposite the other when landed, and the young men turned their attention to the second. The weight of the captured one kept the boat from tip-

GENERAL CONFERENCE

Seventh Day Adventists Meet in Washington This Month

Seventh-day Adventists in various parts of Florida are looking forward with much interest to the quadrennial meeting of the General Conference of that denomination, to be held in Washington, D. C., ending on June 8, and which will bring together believers in that faith from all parts of the world. Twelve members will represent the Southeastern Union Conference, which takes in the states of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, and the eastern portion of Tennessee. The Florida Conference will be represented by President W. H. Heckman and N. C. Strachan.

Delegates will represent every one of the twenty-five conferences in the United States, Canada, Europe, Australia and Africa, and the mission stations in Africa and Asia. While the delegates will number between 300 and 500, the number of persons to attend will swell to about 4000.

Every state in the Union will be represented, in fact, every country on the globe. All of the leading ministers in the United States and Canada will be among those in attendance. Black-skinned and yellow-skinned men and women, who have been reclaimed to Christ from heathenism, some of them having been among man-eating tribes, are expected to lend importance to the power of the gospel by their presence. In fact, the gathering will be made up of a commingling of races, such as probably has never been seen in the past in a meeting of this sort.

Over 500 tents will be pitched for the housing of the people during their stay at the session, and large canvas pavilions will be pitched for the holding of the meetings. It is expected that at least thirty meetings a day will be held.

Lakeland Telegram:—Saw one of the new high school graduates shoveling dirt on a sidewalk construction job the other day, and he was tackling the job with a vim and energy that did our hearts good. That young man will succeed. Anyone with grit and go-aheadativeness that will prompt him to do well and cheerfully the work that his hands find to do, even though it may not be agreeable work, will not have to confine himself to such tasks long. The world is looking for just such young fellows to take the leadership in larger things.

ping so much, and it was the work of but a few minutes to get the second one in.

The boat was then headed for the Punta Gorda fish dock where the monsters were landed. The larger one weighed 250 and the other 150. About a hundred pounds of meat were taken out of the big one and everybody will have turtle soup tomorrow. The small one has not yet been killed. This is the first instance of turtles being taken in the open water in the manner described.—Report of catch of last Friday made to Tampa Times by Wallace Chadman of this city.

COUNCIL MINUTES

Business Transacted at Regular Monthly Meeting of Town Governing Body

The City Council met in the Board of Trade rooms Tuesday night, May 13. Present, Geo. S. Stone, President; Councilmen F. B. Pitt and N. C. Hewitt, Mayor Morton and Marshall Lipscomb. Meeting was called to order by the President and minutes of the last meeting read and approved.

In response to requests mailed to property owners on Marian avenue, between Cross and Berry streets, to meet with the Council and discuss the proposition of putting down sidewalks, only three or four out of a total of thirty-five interested parties were present, and after some discussion any action in the premises was deferred until the next meeting.

Mr. J. M. Weeks, representing the Board of Trade, suggested the advisability of placing sign boards bearing the names of different streets intersecting Merian avenue, and also numbering houses within the city limits. Inasmuch as two of the five councilmen were absent, this matter was also held over until the next meeting for consideration.

The Clerk was instructed to notify Messrs. Welles & Heard to have cleared away within thirty days the boilers, machinery, etc., now obstructing Olympia avenue and Berry street, it being the intention of the Council to open up these streets.

On motion of N. C. Hewitt, seconded by F. B. Pitt, the City Tax Collector was instructed to cancel on the tax books the delinquent taxes due the city on lots 17, 18 and 19, block 31, owned by the Baptist church.

Monthly reports of the Clerk and Collector, Treasurer, Mar-

Continued on last page.

Gainesville Sun:—The men and women wise enough to spend time and work among the flowers in the garden are learning the secret of how to dispense with the doctor. A garden full of flowers and vegetables is a treasure chest and medicine chest combined in one. Gardening by proxy has not much satisfaction about it. One has to get in direct and closest companionship with a flower to know its beauty and charm, and there is a moral value in flowers that few realize. Anyone who devotes himself or herself to the culture of pansies, violets, roses and the other flowers that delight with their fragrance and beauty is the better for it.

Neglected Industry

An annual drain of nearly two and a quarter millions of dollars is a serious fact. Yet the district for which Jacksonville is the distributing point loses that much in one line of agricultural activity, directly or indirectly, in a year's time. Think how Florida would grow if that much more money could be kept in circulation within her borders. Florida's people send out to other states about one and one-fifth millions of dollars directly every year for an article

of necessity which could be produced more cheaply in this state than in those to which the money is sent.

If Florida had more than two million dollars added each year to her circulating medium—dynamic money—there would be more money invested in manufacturing enterprises, more building, more real estate transfers, more employment, every department of active life would feel the impulse of that much more of the lifeblood of business.

In one month recently there were more than thirty carloads of butter brought into Jacksonville. At ten tons to the car this would be at least 300 tons or 600,000 pounds of butter. As some may object that this must have been an exceptional month, we will assume an average of twenty cars a month, 400,000 pounds of butter. Putting the price at 25 cents a pound, this would make an average of \$100,000 a month sent to Northern states for an article that we could manufacture more cheaply than they can. This would be \$1,200,000 a year, 5 per cent of \$24,000,000, an amount which would practically be added to the capital of the state.

There are other losses growing out of the failure of Floridians to raise enough milk cows to supply the people of their own state with butter. The value of the manure that might be applied to the land may be put at half a million dollars. The farmer raising forage for his cows would be likely to have a surplus to sell, and this would be at least a half million dollars more. Here is a grand total of say, \$2,200,000.

That thirty carloads which came into Jacksonville from the North, that month, was for the supply of the district of which Jacksonville is the distributing point. Jacksonville, however is not the only distributing point for groceries in the state. Therefore, the estimate of \$1,200,000 a year spent by Floridians for butter must be far beneath the actual figures.

Denmark, with but a little more than one-fourth the area of Florida, and a soil originally considerably less fertile than that of this state, under the climate of Northern Europe, makes enough butter to feed her population of nearly three million souls and to export millions of pounds to other countries. The farmers have brought up the fertility of the soil, until it is now among the richest of Europe, by the free use of cow manure.

Leon county, in which Tallahassee is situated, makes enough butter for the use of her own citizens and has a large surplus to send out to nearby parts of Florida. Almost every county in the state should be able to do the same.

With a great variety of forage plants which grow here luxuriantly and no winter protection needed, Florida should be able to produce butter more cheaply than any state that has not those advantages, and that means almost all the others—certainly the states from which Florida receives her butter.—Jacksonville Times-Union.

FLORIDA IN SUMMER

The Season is Long but Not Severe State Fanned by Breezes

Wise people seeking for real homes and who have never been far South in the summer time, should come to our part during the summer. The false idea that our people have extreme hot weather has long been known to be a fallacy. Our summers are long but never severe.

Our country, away down on the Southern peninsula, is surrounded by huge bodies of water—Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean—from northeast around south and far to northwest, guaranteeing constant mild breezes all through the summer. Generally at night the wind changes, but nights never fail to be as cool as we could wish. A blanket is always kept within reach.

Our rainy season commences in June. Of late years, in May. Nearly every day we have showers but rarely what Northern people call a rain. Scarcely a day may not be spent out of doors, and because of showers, a freedom from dust.

The other fallacy that mosquitoes and insects make life miserable is also untrue. There are sections where they abound in plenty, but these places are where dead water stands and general uncleanness is allowed to prevail. With us water never stands. Even after hours of heavy rain, in a few minutes the water soaks in the soil and is stored away, and this is a reason why our groves never suffer from drouth as they do in the sandy section. The amount of yearly rainfall is between 50 and 60 inches. Come to Florida in the summer time. Do not let false ideas of extreme heat or insects prevent. Come and learn. If our statements are not far within the truth, then is the time to see for yourself. Come and see what a delightful country we have.—Extract from Modello Topics.

Mulberry Herald:—Watermelons are ripe and on the market and life will soon be worth living when they reach the stage that will permit a printer and other newspaper employees to buy one every day. Never saw a printer but he liked the luscious fruit as well as any negro in the land of Dixie.

Ocala Banner:—If we can eradicate the "white fly" and the "cattle tick" Florida will be the best state in the Union. Her possibilities will then be beyond computation.